

Bcc: Cozad, David[Cozad.David@epa.gov]
From: Thomas, Hattie
Sent: Tue 1/22/2013 10:40:55 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/22/13

OPA Daily Digest for 1/22/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 1/11/13: Requests meeting with the RA to discuss the city of Fulton's wastewater draft permit. Due: 1/18/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Letter – 1/8/13: Constituent concern about a Superfund Information Request regarding Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., in Cape Girardeau. Due: 1/23/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

House Democratic Committee Members (Iowa) - Email – 1/14/13: Requesting EPA provide a briefing on Nutrient Reduction. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

KSDK-TV, Channel 5 (St. Louis) - Leisa Zigman - 1/22/13: Questions about EPA's historic costs for the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis Riverfront Times – Jessica Lussep – 1/22/13: Questions about drinking water quality in St. Louis. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Grand Island Independent – Tracey Overstreet – 1/22/13: Questions about water line installation progress for affected residents of the Parkview Well Superfund site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Bettendorf.com - Air quality standards exceeded 63 times in 2012; Muscatine air monitors record 39 exceedances - 1/21/13 - Iowa finished the year 2012 with a total of 63 exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, with monitors in Muscatine recording 39 of those exceedances, according to figures release by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). <http://www.bettendorf.com/node/1523>

Pratt Tribune (Kan.) - Ethanol production expected in 2013 - 1/22/13 - Pratt Biofuel Investors is wasting no time in renovating their recently purchased ethanol plant in Pratt County. Work is already underway throughout the ethanol plant that was purchased from Scoular Company in December after a year's worth of negotiations. <http://www.pratttribune.com/article/20130121/NEWS/130118919>

Brownfield Ag News - Official: Iowa's nutrient plan will remain voluntary - 1/21/13 - The comment period for Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy ended on Friday. Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey says that once officials have finished reviewing the comments, they will begin preparing the final document which they hope to have completed by the middle of February. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/01/21/official-iowas-nutrient-plan-will-remain-voluntary/>

Associated Press - Kansas towns paying high price for water to meet EPA standard | Treatment plants can be millions of dollars - 1/20/13 - Some Kansas communities have taken steps to rid their drinking water of harmful elements such as uranium and arsenic, but residents in several small towns are facing considerable rate hikes to pay for the improvements the federal government insists they need. <http://cjonline.com/news/2013-01-20/kansas-towns-paying-high-price-water-meet-epa-standard>

SwineWeb (blog) - Cost, Feasibility for Iowa Farmers to Meet EPA Hypoxia Zone Targets to be Discussed at Iowa Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - 1/21/13 - "What would it cost, how long would it take and would the water quality improvement methods impact Iowa's economy and food costs down the road?" Those questions and more will be addressed as part of a panel discussion about Iowa's proposed nutrient reduction strategy. <http://www.swineweb.com/cost-feasibility-for-iowa-farmers-to-meet-epa-hypoxia-zone-targets-to-be-discussed-at-iowa-farm-bureau-annual-meeting/>

Domestic Fuel - Iowa Groups Support Renewable Fuel Standard - 1/21/13 - The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association has joined forces with a group of Iowa businesses and organizations to form a coalition supporting the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/21/iowa-groups-support-renewable-fuel-standard>

Domestic Fuel - Iowa Wind Energy Day Huge Success - 1/21/13 - January 16, 2013 was Iowa Wind Energy Day, and dozens of companies showcased their wind energy technologies to Iowa Governor Terry Branstad along with state legislators. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/21/iowa-wind-energy-day-huge-success/>

Associated Press - Fracking for natural gas being powered by it, too - 1/21/13 - Advances in hydraulic fracturing technology have powered the American natural gas boom. And now hydraulic fracturing could be increasingly powered by the very fuel it has been so successful in coaxing up from the depths. <http://www.sfgate.com/news/texas/article/Fracking-for-natural-gas-being-powered-by-it-too-4209351.php>

Associated Press - Environmentalists hail Obama climate change focus - 1/21/13 - Environmental groups hailed President Barack Obama's warning Monday about climate change, but said the president's words will soon be tested as he decides whether to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/01/22/4023969/environmentalists-hail-obama-climate.html>

New York Times - Speech Gives Climate Goals Center Stage - 1/21/13 - President Obama made addressing climate change the most prominent policy vow of his second Inaugural Address, setting in motion what Democrats say will be a deliberately paced but aggressive campaign built around the use of his executive powers to sidestep Congressional opposition. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/22/us/politics/climate-change-prominent-in-obamas-inaugural-address.html>

Associated Press - More than 140 nations adopt treaty to cut mercury - 1/22/13 - More than 140 nations adopt treaty to cut mercury A new and legally binding international treaty to reduce harmful emissions of mercury was adopted Saturday by more than 140 nations, capping four years of difficult negotiations but stopping short of some of the tougher measures that proponents had envisioned. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/20629296/treaty-aimed-at-reducing-mercury-emissions-signed>

Greenwire - Obama pledges U.S. leadership on climate - 1/21/13 - President Obama prominently featured climate change -- calling out skeptics and calling for America to lead a worldwide transition to new energy technologies -- in his inaugural address today. <http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2013/01/21/1>

Politico - Big second-term test: Meeting President Obama's climate vows - 1/21/13 - President Barack Obama's stirring words in Monday's inaugural address offered his most soaring pledge in years to make a major assault on climate change — but that leaves the crucial question: “How?” <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/big-second-term-test-meeting-obamas-climate-vows-86535.html>

Midwest Energy News - In Chicago, seeking the next bright ideas in energy efficiency - 1/22/13 - Martin Kushler is now a senior fellow at the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). And as numerous experts explained at the Energy Solutions conference, the Midwest has become a leader in energy efficiency – effecting “a sea change” as Kushler described it. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/01/22/in-chicago-seeking-the-next-bright-ideas-in-energy-efficiency/>

New York Times (blog) - LEDs Emerge as a Popular ‘Green’ Lighting - 1/22/13 - The lighting industry has finally come up with an energy-efficient replacement for the standard incandescent bulb that people actually seem to like: the LED bulb. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/22/business/leds-emerge-as-a-popular-green-lighting.html>

The News Leader, Springfield, Mo. - Energy efficiency, improving economy are hot topics at HBA home show - 1/21/13 - New technology and an improving economy were the talk of the Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield Home Show, according to builders. <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20130121/NEWS01/301210024/1264>

Clean Technica - FERC Regulatory Change Could Boost Distributed Solar In The US - 1/18/13 - Connecting distributed generation solar projects to the electrical grid may have just gotten much faster and cheaper, potentially boosting both the US solar industry and overall grid reliability. Clean Technica. <http://cleantechnica.com/2013/01/18/ferc-regulatory-change-could-boost-distributed-solar-in-the-us/>

Inside Climate - Unlikely Firms Bring Clout and Cash to Clean Energy Lobbying Effort - 1/22/13 - Companies with no direct ties to renewable power lobbied to save the wind tax credit, signaling a change in the fight for clean energy incentives. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130121/corporations-sprint-starbucks-google-clean-energy-renewable-power-wind-tax-credit-congress-lobbying-climate-change>

The Energy Collective (blog) - Wind Power Isn't Perfect, But It's a Hell of a Lot Better than the Alternatives - 1/19/13 - Like Google, another technology giant increasingly obsessed with clean energy, Apple operates huge data centres that consume tremendous amounts of electricity, much of it based on coal. Like most consumer-facing companies, it wants to be perceived as a responsible corporate citizen, meaning it's eager to tap into low- or zero-emission energy alternatives. <http://theenergycollective.com/tyhamilton/174181/wind-power-isn-t-perfect-it-s-hell-lot-better-alternatives>

ClimateWire - Obama vows action on climate change during second term - 1/22/13 - Climate change appears to have climbed to the summit of policy promises yesterday when President Obama vowed in his second inaugural address to confront carbon emissions, because anything less would “betray our children.” <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2013/01/22/1>

ClimateWire - Warming could prevent soils from holding carbon -- study - 1/22/13 - Warming temperatures may hasten the rate of carbon emissions from soils, a new study has found, especially in the short term. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2013/01/22/7>

Environmental Health News - From activist to EPA: Tejada ready to “speak truth” about environmental justice. - 1/22/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is turning to a Houston activist to lead the fight against environmental injustices around the country.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2013/tejada>

Reuters - Curbing climate change will cost \$700 billion a year: report - 1/21/13 - The world must spend an extra \$700 billion a year to curb its addiction to fossil fuels blamed for worsening floods and heat waves and rising sea levels, a study issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) showed on Monday. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/21/us-davos-climate-idUSBRE90K0QK20130121>

E&E Daily - Despite dawn of a new term, forecast cloudy for energy and enviro issues - 1/22/13 - The inauguration is over, and a new Congress is getting organized this week. So time to get to work, right? Not so fast, at least when it comes to the plethora of pending energy and environmental issues -- from power plant rules to pipeline permits -- that are awaiting action in President Obama's second term and will draw intense scrutiny on Capitol Hill. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2013/01/22/1>

E&E Daily - Enviros, Obama Cabinet in lovefest at clean energy ball - 1/22/13 - Clean energy advocates celebrated the beginning of President Obama's second term with giddy applause at last night's Environmental and Clean Energy Inaugural Ball. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/01/22/2>

Daily Mail (UK) - Uncovered, the 'toxic' gene hiding in GM crops: Revelation throws new doubt over safety of foods - 1/22/13 - A virus gene that could be poisonous to humans has been missed when GM food crops have been assessed for safety. GM crops such as corn and soya, which are being grown around the world for both human and farm animal consumption, include the gene. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2266143/Uncovered-toxic-gene-hiding-GM-crops-Revelation-throws-new-doubt-safety-foods.html>

NPR - Tracing the Culprit if Fracking Pollutes Water Supplies (audio) - 1/22/13 - Scientists are developing ways to add non-toxic tracers to drilling fluid so if groundwater is contaminated, investigators would be able to pinpoint if an oil or gas drilling operation was to blame. <http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2013/01/22/scientists-close-to-testing-tracers-for-drilling-fluid/>

New York Times (blog) - Universities Team Up to Assess Health Impacts of Gas Drilling - 1/22/13 - A coalition of academic researchers in the United States is preparing to shine a rigorous scientific light on the polarized and often emotional debate over whether using hydraulic fracturing to drill for natural gas is hazardous to human health. <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/22/universities-teaming-up-to-assess-health-impacts-of-fracking/>

Biofuels Digest - Obama highlights renewable energy, climate change in Inaugural Address - 1/22/13 - In Washington, US President Barack Obama embarked on his second term in office yesterday with an Inaugural Address that placed climate change and renewable energy squarely on the Administration's agenda. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2013/01/22/obama-highlights-renewable-energy-climate-change-in-inaugural-address/>

Domestic Fuel - Marginal Lands Well Suited for Biomass - 1/22/13 - According to an article in Nature, researchers with Michigan State University (MSU) show that marginal lands can serve as prime real estate for meeting alternative energy production goals. By growing mixed-species cellulosic biomass. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/22/marginal-lands-well-suited-for-biomass/>

Domestic Fuel - American Farm Bureau Supports RFS - 1/22/13 - Delegates for the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) last week voted overwhelmingly to support continuation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), despite the fact that membership in the organization includes a substantial percentage of livestock producers. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/22/american-farm-bureau-supports-rfs/>

Blog for Clean Air - Govs to President Obama: We Need Smog-Fighting Cleaner Gasoline Now! - 1/22/13 - Many thanks to these progressive governors, led by Connecticut's Governor Malloy, and D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, for speaking up about the need for President Obama to get moving on smog-fighting, low-sulfur gasoline. <http://blogforcleanair.blogspot.com/2013/01/govs-to-president-obama-we-need-smog.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

1/23/13 - Visit the Science and Technology Center, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/24/13 - Meet and greet with Richard Baron of McCormack, Baron, Salazar Development, Inc., St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/24/13 - Meet with Carter Carburetor Stakeholders, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

1/29/13 - Visit the Training and Logistics Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/4/13 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources/EPA Workplan Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

2/5/13 – Meet and greet with John Frece, Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC), Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/6/13 - Meet and greet with Chairman Dennis Hedke, Kansas House Energy and Environment Committee, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/6-8/13 - Strategic Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/7/13 - 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

4/16/13 - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo.
Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

DRA:

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact:
Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/5/13 – Meet and greet with John Frece, Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities
(OSC), Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/7/13 - 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact:
David Doyle, 7667

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional
Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/19/13 - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan.
Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

SA:

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh
Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact:
Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/J

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

1/23/13 - OSWER and OAM meeting with Acquisition and Superfund Programs regarding
Remedial Acquisition Framework/Strategy, Regional Office. Contact: Lee Thomas, 7739

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/22 - 23/13- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Presentation, Carroll, Iowa. Contact: Stephen Pollard, 7582

1/22-24/13 - Groundwater Protection Council Meeting, Sarasota, Fla. Contacts: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

1/22/13 - Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Steve Schaff, 7447

1/24/13 - Keynote address at State Association of Kansas Watersheds, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

1/31/13 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Mary Tietjen Mindrup, 7431; Stan Calow, 7410

2/7/13 - Missouri Water Classification Workgroup Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

Hattie L. Thomas
Deputy Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066